

DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

**HAPPY HANUKKAH!
HAPPY KWANZA!
MERRY CHRISTMAS!
HAPPY WINTER SOLSTICE!**

Return Service Requested

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"COMING TOGETHER"



***ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2019
DOORS OPEN 6 P.M., CLUBHOUSE 2***

Club members and their guests are cordially invited to the annual Holiday Party. Inspirational videos shown! Come for sandwiches, sides, cheese & crackers, chips and dips, cookies, wine, holiday punch...and more! Some club business will be conducted, such as presentation of the slate of 2020 Officers and Directors, with nominations taken from the floor.

RESERVATIONS AND PRE-PAYMENT NECESSARY.
Space is limited! \$10 Members; \$15 Guests. CHECKS ONLY, PLEASE.

Questions? Maureen Mehler at 949-951-3557 OR Nancy Hensel at 703-964-6993

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Paid for by Laguna Woods Democratic Club FEC# C00447185 FPPC# 1307188

Club meetings are held the **third Tuesday** of each month in **Clubhouse 2 Main Lounge**, at **7 p.m.**, except occasionally when a special event preempts a regular meeting; the date or location of any meeting may be changed due to holidays; members free, guests are asked for a \$3 donation at the door. Meeting flyers are posted in each clubhouse at least two weeks prior to every meeting, whether regular or special event. Board of Directors meets the **fourth Tuesday** of each month in Clubhouse 2 Grevillea Room at 6:30 p.m.

2019 Officers and Directors

President (Newsletter & Publicity) Linda Nearing, 460-0640; **1st VP** (Program) Susan Dearing, 855-6965; **2nd VP** (Fundraising) Rebeca Gilad; **Secretary** Allan Feldman; **Treasurer** (Budget) Pat Leftwich; **Activism** Janice Burstin; **Campaign & GOTV** Jeanette Peck; **Club Election & Nominating** Maureen Mehler; **DPOC Associate Member and Historian** Heide Krueger; **Legislative Action** Jonathan Adler, 581-2178; **Membership** Janet Means; **Outreach** Special Director Jeanne Lepowsky; **Special Events** Nancy Hensel; **Voter Registration** Mary Ribando; **(All area codes are 949)**

SAVE THE DATE

Dec. 2, Mon. and Dec. 3, Tues. - Flyer distribution (see GOTV article below)

Dec. 17, Tues. - Holiday Party; CH 2, doors open at 6 pm

Jan. 18, Sat. - Annual Women's March, Santa Ana (see article)

Jan. 19, Sun. - Club Meeting, Towers, 2 pm

Jan. 21, Tues. - Club Meeting, CH 2, 7 pm; Candidates and Ballot Measures (same at Towers on Jan. 19)

Feb. 7, Fri. - GOTV Training, 9:30 am; CH 2

SOUTH COUNTY OUTREACH

Thanks to the generosity of our members and guests, **we raised \$523** at our November 19 meeting by passing the basket. This money will go a long way to the "Adopt-a-Family" and "Adopt-a-Senior" programs for the year-end holiday. **Please see the attached report from Sue Snyder on the Adopt-a-Family and Adopt-a-Senior programs and this year's recipients. It's heartwarming!**

Thanks also to those who brought gift items for SCO's Toy Shop and recyclable bottles and cans! **Please call Service Project Coordinator Sue Snyder** for more info 714-329-3386 and to volunteer for future food drives!

MEMBERSHIP - DUES PAYABLE

Welcome to our newest members: Adele Bilewitz, Patsy Copeland, Dawn-Ellen and Mitch Cross, Theresa Frost, Sophie Golpa, Anne Shalauta, and Catherine Titus.

Please remember: LWDC dues are on a calendar year - January through December. For questions, call **Membership Chair Janet Means** 760-458-5871, e-mail letterlady@me.com. Use a credit card at <https://tinyurl.com/yxflhd2y> to sign up or renew online with ActBlue. **NO INCREASE IN DUES! PLEASE RENEW FOR 2020 NOW!**

BRILLIANT FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN!

Fundraising Chair **Rebeca Gilad** reports that we are more than halfway to our goal - we now have **in excess of \$11,000** in donations!

The **2020Vision Campaign** exists to raise funds for a campaign office next year and to donate to Democratic incumbents and candidates. <https://tinyurl.com/y8x9rn8m> or <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/2020lwdcvision>
PLEASE - DONATE TODAY!

GET OUT THE VOTE NEWS

Mary Ribando (949-540-9607, marytribando@gmail.com) and her volunteers will be distributing flyers on Monday, December 2, for two hours and on Tuesday, December 3, for two hours; meet at the Clubhouse 4 parking lot. These flyers have the information on the new voting processes in 2020 on one side and news of the 2020 census on

the other. They are informational and slated for wide distribution throughout the community. Sue Dearing and Mary Ribando will be there to lead these efforts.

Then on Friday, February 7, prior to the very important Primary Election on Tuesday, March 3, there will be a GOTV training at 9:30 am in Clubhouse Two's main lounge.

CDP ENDORSING CONVENTION IN NOVEMBER IN LONG BEACH!

The second CDP convention of the year, called the Endorsing Convention, took place November 15-17 at the Convention Center in Long Beach. It was terrific! CDP Chair Rusty Hicks is making a lot of good changes.

Club directors who were CDP delegates attended: **Jonathan Adler, Janice Burstin, Sue Dearing and Linda Nearing.**

In addition, **Heide Krueger-Gerson, Jeanne Lepowsky, Janet Means, Jo Panitch and Mary Ribando** worked as volunteers at convention and/or attended the Thursday "Training Extravaganza," a new feature of convention.

Attendees were able to see eight of the Democratic presidential candidates speak at a forum on Saturday (Booker, Buttageg, Castro, Harris, Klobuchar, Sanders, Steyer, and Yang). In addition, at General Assembly, there were several others - Delaney, Patrick, Sestak and Williamson. Here's a link to the presidential forum **California Democratic Party/Univision Real America Forum**

NEW HOSPITALITY CHAIR!

Thanks to outgoing Hospitality Chair Jo Ballantyne and thanks to longtime member and former director Penny Cline (who chaired Special Events for several years) for stepping up as our new Hospitality Chair! Penny will run on the 2020 slate; voting and installation at the January meeting.

DEMS GAIN IN NOVEMBER!

Orange County went **BLUE** in early August! **At print time, there are now 557,060 Dems and 543,366 Reps in the OC - we are up by 13,694!**

LW has 5,177 Dems and 5,048 Reps, a difference of 129, so we need to register MORE Village residents as Dems!

WOMEN'S MARCH, SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2020

Get on the bus! Contact Rebeca Gilad rebecagilad@gmail.com for your space on the bus to the Women's March in Santa Ana. Only \$15! **Get your "pink pussy hat" at the Holiday Party.**

2020 SLATE - OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR THE CLUB

The following club members (and the committees they will chair) have agreed to run for the board of directors. Nominations from the floor were taken at the November meeting (there were none) and will be again on December 17.

OFFICERS: President - Linda Nearing, Newsletter and Publicity; 1st Vice President - Sue Dearing, Program; 2nd Vice President - Rebeca Gilad, Fundraising; Treasurer - Pat Leftwich, Budget; Secretary - Allan Feldman, Alternate Associate Member of the DPOC's Central Committee

DIRECTORS: Jonathan Adler, Legislative Action; Janice Burstin, Activism; Penny Cline, Hospitality; Nancy Hensel, Special Events; Heide Krueger-Gerson, Associate Member of the DPOC; Jeanne Lepowsky (Special Director), Outreach; Janet Means, Membership; Maureen Mehler, Nominating & Elections; Jeanette Peck, Get Out the Vote; Mary Ribando, Voter Registration.

NOTE: All candidates are incumbents, except Penny Cline (former director) to chair Hospitality and Pat Leftwich, just elected as the new Club Treasurer. The election is in January.

37th State Senate Candidates

At the CDP endorsing convention, neither candidate - Dave Min or Katrina Foley - received the endorsement. Min won 53.2% of the vote; Foley with 46% and one vote for no endorsement .01%. These candidates will speak at our January meetings or have a surrogate speak for them.

The Orange County Registrar of Voters is recruiting paid help for the 2020 elections. For information, go to <https://www.ocvote.com/volunteer/volunteer-position-descriptions/>.

November 20, 2019

Dear LWDC,

At the October meeting of the LWDC we collected \$275 for Adopt-a-Family and Adopt-a-Senior. I spoke with our Senior several days ago and because all she wanted for Christmas was a pair of boots, we agreed a gift card from Target would be best. She also wanted a grocery shopping opportunity. Ralph's was her first choice for food.

Our couple have five children ages 3, 4, 6, 10, 12. I spoke with the mom a few days ago. She wants all of her children to get new shoes. The 3 and 4-year old boys asked for tricycles. The 6-year old girl asked for a doll. The 10-year old boy wants a bicycle. The 12-year old asked for two pairs of shoes and a couple of toys.

I stopped at Ralph's yesterday at 7:45 a.m. and purchased a \$100 gift card for the Family and a \$50 for our Senior. Then I proceeded to Target and had one of the sales clerks translate the Spanish words on the Family's request form. As soon as she said the two little guys want tricycles, I went to the back of the store and picked out two tricycles. They were each \$59.00. I picked up a soccer ball for the 10-year old, the doll for the one little girl, and some Match Box cars for the 12-year old.

I also purchased a \$200 Target gift card for the mom so she could buy shoes and whatever else she wanted. I

picked up a \$50 gift card for our Senior. I spent a total of \$510 yesterday. Ha ha. I was hoping our LWDC would come up with enough money to cover that, but I would be fine paying for some gifts on my own. My heart kept saying "tricycle tricycle". Image those little guys finding tricycles under the Christmas tree on Christmas morning.

I knew that somehow we'd also be able to get a bike for the 10-year old. After we collected \$523 last night, I was so happy I cried. Right now, I have \$237 left for the bike and more Ralph's gift cards for both the Senior and our Family. The bike will be about \$125. Oh! One of our new members, sitting at the back of the room (I should have asked his name), when I asked for a donation, he said, "For the bike?" I assured him that was true. He gave bigly. After the meeting he came over to me and said, "I have a story. When I was a kid we didn't have much. I asked for a bike for Christmas and someone—I'll never know who—bought me a brand new bike. So, I wanted to help that little 10-year have a new bike." Cool, eh?

I met our Senior this morning. She was delighted with the gift cards and said, "I'm so excited; I'm going shopping right now." Ironically, she is disabled at age 62 with what her doctor thinks is MS. We had (hopefully) an encouraging conversation about Richard [*Sue's husband*] dealing with MS for 53 years and what great medications are available these days for the newly diagnosed.

The mom and I tried to meet up today but couldn't get our schedules to jibe so I'll see her on Friday and give her the gift cards. She doesn't understand much English but her oldest boys are very polite on the phone. Richard and I will be delivering the bike and tricycles and other gifts about 5 days before Christmas, along with another Ralph's card.

Last night when Jose, the bus driver, saw us carrying toys out the door of Clubhouse 2, he offered to help and made about a dozen trips back and forth. What a great guy. This morning at 9:15 we were at South County Outreach. The volunteers came right out and helped unload our van. They were so grateful for the toys and the bags of food. Also, they accepted Cathy Aubert's \$220 check and JJ's \$25 check with great joy. Volunteer Marsha was almost jumping up and down. Volunteer Ken kept saying, "This is amazing. So many toys. Thank you. Thank you." He also said that what a great world this would be if we just helped each other. I agreed. They made a point of leaning in the window of our van and thanking Richard for being such a great guy. Also, a volunteer named Rick came out and thanked us.

Life is amazing. Angels everywhere.

Love and Blessings, Sue and Richard Snyder

P.S. Update when we deliver items to the Family.